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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2368)

Name of Candidate	Anju		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1188680
Center	Jaipur	Date	11/09/2024.

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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9	10	
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15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH.**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended	Strongly Recommended

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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All the Best

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Q1. न्यायालयों द्वारा की जा रही व्याख्या के कारण भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत प्राण और दैहिक स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार के दायरे का विस्तार हुआ है। न्यायालय के प्रासंगिक पूर्ववर्ती निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The evolving interpretation by the courts have led to the expansion of the scope of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Supreme Court under the ambit of Article 32 and Article 13 (judicial review) has time and again stood as the custodian of the fundamental right (chapter III) of Indian constitution. As a result, Many fundamental rights like Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) have been expanded to realize their true meaning.

Expanding scope of Article 21

① Gopalan Case (1950) - provided that Article 21 is available against executive arbitrary action but not against arbitrary legislative action (took narrow interpretation of Right to life)

② Menaka Case (1978) expanded scope of Article 21 to wider ambits and not just to animal existence. Provided for due process of law

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③ Navtej Singh Johar judgement (2018) - decriminalised homosexuality to uphold personal liberty for same sex couples

④ NALSA judgement (2014) - provided & upheld equal rights of transgenders

⑤ Ranjit Sinh Case (2024) - Supreme court expanded scope of Article 21 to protection against climate change

Significance
- ① protect right of all individuals
- ② provided for due process of law
- ③ protection against arbitrary legislative action

Way forward → Article 21 must be liberally interpreted and supreme court guidelines and judgements must be protected by legislature.

With the expanding scope of fundamental rights, we can strictly uphold our constitution and values of liberty, equality & fraternity as envisaged in preamble

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Q2. लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 8A भारत में चुनावी प्रक्रिया की अखंडता को किस प्रकार सुरक्षित रखती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Analyse how Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 preserves the integrity of the electoral process in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Section 8A of Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the various provisions which provides for disqualification of legislators on moral grounds.

Section 8A preserving integrity of electoral process in India

→ ① provides for an equal ground for all candidates for elections - by forcing them to uncover their election expenditure

→ ② prevents use of divisive politics & and upholding brotherhood & fraternity as fundamental principles

→ ③ Helps decriminalization of politics - by disqualifying legislators who are convicted for offences for punishment more than 2 years

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→ prevents people of corrupt and disloyal background from making legislations

→ prevent misuse of government machinery for their electoral benefits by government or ruling party

→ forces candidates not to propagate social crimes like untouchability, sati, dowry etc.

Significance
→ ① Elected representatives need to correct their conduct
→ ② help ensuring free and fair elections
③ legislators are ensured to be individuals of higher moral ground.

Recent challenges of elections like hate speech, casteism in politics in subtle manner must be countered with new set of rules for upholding integrity of elections in coming years.

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Q3. भारतीय संविधान की नौवीं अनुसूची को प्रारंभ में किन उद्देश्यों के साथ प्रस्तुत किया गया था? क्या उच्चतम न्यायालय नौवीं अनुसूची में शामिल किए गए किसी कानून की समीक्षा कर सकता है? न्यायालय के पूर्ववर्ती निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

With what objectives was the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution initially introduced? Can the Supreme Court review a legislation that has been placed in the Ninth Schedule? Discuss with the help of case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Ninth schedule of the constitution was inserted by 1st amendment act by the parliament

Objectives of 9th schedule

→ ① to bring in land reforms for upholding socialistic principles of our polity.

→ ② to prevent fundamental right to property from covering up or dominating other fundamental rights

→ ③ to correct feudalistic and landlordism nature of our country at time of independence

→ ④ to look for special measures for reservations & upliftment of weaker section of our society

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↳ ⑤ to uphold Article 39(b) and 39(c) for equitable distribution of material resources

Supreme Court review of 9th schedule

⊙ Keshavananda Bharti judgement (1973) - supreme court provided that new law could make changes to the basic structure of constitution

⊙ I.R. Coelho case (2006) - S.C clarified that any law put into 9th schedule after 1973 (April) - Keshvananda judgement is open for judicial review

⊙ Article 39(b) and 39(c) could be implemented and Article 14, Article 21, 29 are accepted as inferior to implement Article 39(b) and 39(c)

Thus supreme court could review laws under 9th schedule to uphold basic structure of constitution which are inserted into 9th schedule after 1973

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Q4. ऑनलाइन विवाद समाधान (ODR) द्वारा प्रदान की जाने वाली विवादों के उचित, त्वरित और प्रभावी समाधान तक पहुंच कई चुनौतियों से घिरी हुई है। विवेचना कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Online Dispute Resolution's (ODR) promise of access to just, speedy and effective resolution of disputes is beset with several challenges. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Online dispute Resolution is the method recently promoted by both judiciary and executive as a means of speedy & effective justice especially after proliferation of ICT in India.

Significance of ODR for dispute resolution

- ① decrease time taken for reaching to the courts or appointment with lawyers
- ② Help citizens access justice at the comfort of their home
- ③ Decrease out of pocket expenditure of citizens and their valuable time and working hours
- ④ Make lawyers and advocates available for more number of people — effective work.

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Challenges in ODR methods

① lack of sufficient infrastructure with advocates as well as poor citizens

② poor digital literacy
Oxfam report 2023 → 38% of only online users are digitally literate

③ Softw are backdoors, crash of online system
Eg) recent faulty update of software

④ Concerns related to privacy and data leakage & frequent crash → all proceedings of the day become redundant

Way forward

① Improve digital literacy
Eg) PM DISHA, PM DAKSH schemes

② better access to digital devices and internet eg. PM WANI

③ Protection of critical infrastructure by home grown tech.

By ODR we would realise the principles of Article 39A and Article 21 (right to speedy & fair trial) in an efficient manner.

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Q5. केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग के कार्यालय द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं के कारण सूचना का अधिकार (RTI) अधिनियम निरर्थक हो गया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Right to Information (RTI) Act has fallen into redundancy owing to the issues faced by the Office of the Central Information Commission. Analyse. (Answer in 150 words) 10

RTI Act (Right to Information), 2005 has been one of the major bulwark of democracy of India by making public citizens rather than subjects. However, recent issues faced by office of CIC have posed challenges to the soul of RTI

Issues faced by office of CIC

→ ① RTI amendment Act 2019 → made Chief Information Commissioner's service condition dependent on central government

→ ② lack of enough funds and manpower

Eg) Satark Nagrik Sangathan report 2022

↓

q. information commissions → No ICs

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5 CIC's post vacant all over India in state information commissions

③ 2023 RTI amendment through digital data protection Act 2023 → section 8(1)(j) amended to not allow personally attributable information to be disclosed through RTI

④ Rejection rate is high and an application filed today will take much time to be resolved.

Way forward

① Timely filling of vacancy for information commissioner

② Review of 2019 amendment to provide independence to the post of CIC

③ Proper training of information commissioners in all departments for timely resolution of applications.

Recently, CIC reported 90% application resolved in 2023. This provides hope for vibrant future role of CIC & RTI in Indian democracy

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Q6. सूचना एवं संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) ने भारत में जमीनी स्तर पर शासन परिदृश्य को किस प्रकार परिवर्तित कर दिया है? इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता का लाभ उठाने में आने वाली प्रमुख बाधाएं क्या हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How has Information and Communication Technology (ICT) transformed the governance landscape at the grassroots level in India? What are the key obstacles in leveraging its full potential? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Information and Communication technology has transformed governance in India by adhering to principle of minimum government and maximum governance.

Significance of ICT in governance at grassroot level

1. Accessibility increases by reaching to wider section of society
   Eg) Sugamya Bharat app → accessibility for disabled
2. Reduced corruption by digitization of end to end process — eg) DBT in gas subsidy
3. Grievance redressal
   Eg) CPGRAMS → directly taking complains
4. Allowed portability
   Eg) One Nation, One Ration Card for migrant workers
5. Increased transparency
   Eg) OIOS → audit & account system.

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Key obstacles in leveraging the potential

1. Digital divide – 34% of rural household access to internet
   70% in ~~rural are~~ urban areas : Oxfam 2023
2. Digital illiteracy – 38% of internet users are digitally literate – oxfam 2023
3. Exclusion & technological vulnerability : eg) Many MNREGA workers name deleted due to technological issues
4. privacy & data leakage : eg) Reinsecurity report of DSA
   Critical data of 81 crore Indians was sold on dark web
5. Accessibility – local languages are not available in many services

Thus there are various challenges. Schemes like PM WANI, PM GDISHA, CERT-in and recent data protection act will help to effectively address the issues

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Q7. सिविल सेवाओं का राजनीतिकरण भारत में शासन के 'स्टील फ्रेम' को किस प्रकार नष्ट कर देता है? इस प्रभाव का प्रतिकार करने के लिए कौन-से उपाय अपनाए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

How does the politicization of the civil services corrode the 'steel frame' of governance in India? What measures can be implemented to counteract this effect? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Civil services were regarded as 'steel frame of governance in India' by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel during independence. Now politicization of civil services have marred its potential.

Politicization of Civil services corroding steel frame

① Civil servants forced to adhere to party ideology → impart impartiansship of civil services

② Use of perverse means like transfers postings to harass civil servants

(Nota committee report on use of transfer as a means to tame civil services

③ Decreasing morale of civil servants to make social reforms & impartial work

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(4) Increasing stress among civil servants → resorting to resignations and suicides: (ADR report)

Measures to counteract the effect → ① TSR Subramanian case → supreme court guidelines must be taken into account

- formation of civil services Board (to decide on matters of transfers, postings
- Minimum tenure must be provided to civil servants especially in field jobs

② An independent commission must be made to hear grievances of civil servants and make recommendations.

Civil servants and Civil services are important aspect of policy implementation must be made free from any kind of politrization.

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Q8. लैंगिकता वृद्धावस्था का एक महत्वपूर्ण आयाम है। भारत में सामाजिक अलगाव और वंचना का सामना करने वाली बुजुर्ग महिलाओं की समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Gender is an important dimension of ageing. What measures can be taken to solve the problems of elderly women facing social alienation and deprivation in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

According to the UNFPA report 2022, by 2030 - 13% of India's population will be old and 20% by 2050. An important aspect of ageing is feminisation. Due to average age of females being higher than men (70) → of females (70) men)

more females are there in older population.

Issues

① Loneliness of older females → mental & emotional challenges

② Financial dependence on children leading to disempowerment

③ Need of care for longer periods of time

④ lack of appropriate health facilities and increasing expenditure.

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Measures that can be taken to prevent alienation of older Women

- ① Special provision for older women in PM Vaya Vandana Yojana
- ② Increased expenditure on palliative care for older women
- ③ Women specific old-age homes and reskilling of older women in traditional art and craft to make them feel independent
- ④ Higher pensions for single older women in National Social assistance programme
- ⑤ Roping in of NGO's & SHG's for capacity building of older women.

Kerala's bell of faith Model and entrepreneurship initiatives like SAGE could help restore dignity and right to meaningful life for older women

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Q9. भारत और अफ्रीकी देशों के बीच राजनीतिक एवं आर्थिक जुड़ाव को बढ़ावा देने में भारतीय प्रवासी क्या भूमिका निभा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

What role can the Indian diaspora play in fostering political and economic engagement between India and African countries? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Indian diaspora has made significant strides all over the world in west as well as developing countries in Africa.

Role of Indian diaspora in political engagement between India and African countries

→ ① Help become a backchannel in efficient communication between leaders

→ ② Exchange of democratic values and ideas through mutual cultural exchange

→ ③ Secure ~~good~~ goodwill for Indian culture and political dispensation

→ ④ Facilitate engagement between political representatives

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Role in Economic engagement

→ ① Opening up of branches of Indian companies for better trading and exports.

→ ② New age technology initiatives like internet, 5G, AI could be spread up in African continent

→ ③ Helping in lobbying for Indian government efforts of securing resources for India on fair terms

→ ④ Could work as a bridge for developing mutual trust and continuous engagement

Way forward

→ ① India should effectively reach out to Indian diaspora in Africa

→ ② Continuous and positive engagement with Indians in Africa

Thus, Indian diaspora could help India realise its idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Article 51 of constitution.

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Q10. अपने प्रारंभ के एक दशक से भी अधिक समय बाद, बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव के लाभ, विशेष रूप से विकासशील देशों के लिए, भ्रामक साबित हुए हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

More than a decade after its inception, the benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative have proven to be illusory, especially for developing countries. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a China's flagship project to revive old silk route for connecting the world

significance
1. Increased economic trade along countries in BRI
2. better outreach for China
3. control of china over world's supply chain

However, after a decade, the benefits of BRI proven to be illusory

BRI not able to benefit developing countries

1. China provided loans to developing countries at high interest rate → debt trap
   eg) Sri Lanka

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→ ② China on garb of BRI has acquired the strategic ports of developing countries
Eg) Colombo port of Sri Lanka

→ ③ Developing countries exports to china's are negligible while chinese cheap imports dominating the relationship → balance of payment deficit

→ ④ China weaponizing its strategic control of supply chains by stopping exports as per its whimsy → vulnerable developing countries.

Thus, developing countries are more at a receiving end of China's BRI negative impacts.

Way forward → ① Providing alternative to developing countries by soft loans & credit lines

② Alliance of like minded countries – G7, G-20, to counter China's debt trap diplomacy.

India could rise as a benign power on background of China's BRI and could emerge as a global leader of democratic values

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Q11. भारत में पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) के समक्ष आने वाली वित्तीय बाधाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। उनके राजस्व संसाधनों में वृद्धि करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the financial constraints faced by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. What measures can be taken to augment their revenue resources? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's) were established under 73rd ~~and 7~~ Constitutional amendment Act under Article 243 - 243P.

Despite of them being envisaged as 3rd tier of government, PRI's are facing several challenges to realise their potential role

Financial constraints faced by PRI's in India

→ ① Insufficient devolution of funds to PRI's under Article 280 despite of finance Commission recommendations

→ ② Post GST, PRI's suffering serious funds issue.

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- Pre GST – 55% of expenditure of PRI's met by octroi tax
- Post GST – 15% of expenditure of PRI's met by state devolutions

→ (3) Control of bureaucracy and state government over panchayat funds

(Eg) Haryana – standing rule – sarpanch could only take up work upto 2 lakhs of funds

→ (4) Untimely disbursal of funds or non disbursal of funds – (Eg) Many sarpanchs in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide due to falling in debt trap as state administration did not release funds

→ (5) Only 0.5% GDP is transferred to local government in India.

While South Africa – 2.6%
Brazil – 5.1%

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Measures to be taken to augment resources of PRI's in India

→ ① Recommendations of finance Commission and state finance commission must be made binding

→ ② Generation of local taxing means such as entertainment tax or land tax, property tax over a certain ceiling

→ ③ Representation of Sarpanchs in finance commission working bodies

→ ④ Enough independence and freedom must be provided for gram panchayats to make and execute local plans

→ ⑤ Capacity building of gram panchayats

→ ⑥ Dedicated bureaucratic cadre for panchayats. (like in Telangana)

Only when PRI's are financially independent and empowered, they could work as life and blood of liberty and realize Gandhian principle (article 40)

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Q12. भारत में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव सुनिश्चित करने में भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त अधिनियम, 2023 ECI की स्वतंत्रता को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करेगा? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in ensuring free and fair elections in India. How will the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 impact the independence of the ECI? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Election Commission of India established under Article 324 of constitution is one of the 4 bulwarks of Indian democratic system

Role of Election Commission of India in ensuring free and fair elections

→ ① Conduct of election by ECI in fair manner by means of self controlled officer

→ ② Oversee implementation of Model code of conduct during conduction of election

→ ③ Ensuring free conduction of election exercise through officers like election officers on special duty

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→ (4) Advise president on disqualification of legislators in case of use of fraudulent means or any disregard of Representation of people Act, 1951

→ (5) Oversee political parties activities to ensure that money and muscle power is not dominating voter's choices

⇒ Chief Election Commission (CEC) and other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 → is the act which provides for the selection of Election commissioners

→ search committee : led by minister of law and justice to shortlist suitable names

→ selection committee – of PM, Cabinet Minister nominated by PM and leader of opposition (LoO) will finally decide a name for Election commissioner

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The act impacting independence of ECI

① The executive still have larger role in deciding the officers of election commission

② Removing role of judiciary from selection committee raises suspicion

③ Provision that no legal action could be taken against Election Commissioners provide perverse incentive to be partisan

④ No provision for ensuring independence of other election commissioners was inserted.

However, the act works as an improvement over previous procedure where executive was solely responsible for appointments

Way forward

① Taking cue from south Africa where a panel wider appoint heads of integrity institution

② Other provisions like barring post-retirement, independence of other commissioners must be made.. Only an independent election commission will instill trust & fairness in electoral process.

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Q13. अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989 ने भारत में वंचित समुदायों पर होने वाले अत्याचारों को रोकने और उन्हें भेदभाव के विरुद्ध संरक्षण प्रदान करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has played a significant role in preventing atrocities and providing protection against discrimination of marginalized communities in India. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Chasing the directive principle of State policy (Article 46) and several other fundamental rights of equality (Article 14-18), government brought in the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for safeguarding weaker sections of the society against exploitation.

Provisions of SC, ST (prevention of atrocities act)

1. fast track courts to hear crimes registered under the act
2. Action against officer in charge if complaint not taken
3. Penalties and punishment as high as 6 months - 5 years
4. Rehabilitation measures

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Role played by SC, ST Act, 1989 to prevent exploitation

→ ① Higher number of complaints registered by officer incharge due to provision of penalties in case of non-reporting

→ ② Higher punishment & penalties provision acted as deterrent

→ ③ Increased awareness among members of SC, ST regarding their rights.

→ ④ Fast track courts have led to swift resolution of cases and delivery of justice

→ ⑤ Higher number of crimes like said or even gestures derogatory against the community are included in law → exhaustly covering all forms of marginalisation

→ ⑥ Compensation & rehabilitation measures have helped resettling of the members again in the community.

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Despite of the act, there are several limitations

① NCRB data 2022 - year on year increase of an average 4% in crimes against SC, ST

② Phenomenon of dominant caste → fear of social boycotts → SC, ST members refrain from going to police

③ Excessive representation of upper caste in police forces → executive apathy towards grievances of weaker section

④ trend of not recording a crime under the SC, ST act rather reporting it as a general crime

Recent incident in MP. where an upper caste individual urinated over an ST person represent the grave situation of marginalisation.

Sensitisation of police forces, capacity building of civil society, wide awareness about the act and the New BNS, BNSS laws together will help efficient realisation of provisions of SC, ST Act, 1989 in future.

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Q14. राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (NCW) के कार्यों पर चर्चा कीजिए। महिलाओं की समस्याओं से निपटने में सिविल न्यायालय की शक्तियां प्राप्त होने से आयोग को क्या लाभ होता है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Discuss the functions of the National Commission for Women (NCW). How does the Commission benefit from having the powers of a civil court in dealing with women's issues? (Answer in 250 words) 15

National Commission for Women is a statutory body formed under the National Commission for Women Act, 2005 to protect the rights and roles of women in Indian society.

Functions of National Commission for Women

→ ① To evaluate the safeguards available for women by constitution and by statutory laws and their effectiveness

→ ② To investigate into any organised violation of women's rights in Indian society, polity or economy

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- (3) Work for awareness generation regarding women's rights and powers
- (4) Advise government and other administrative agencies for better practices and rules to safeguard working women
- (5) To look into individual complaints suo motu or pursue cases in courts for realising and resolving women issues.

Benefits of NCW having powers of civil courts in dealing with women's issues

- (1) Could ask for any evidence officially from any government or private organisation
- (2) Investigate the complaint with flexible procedure
- (3) Summon guilty or accused person or

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any other persons related to a case of importance.

→ (4) speedy and inexpensive resolution of many issues could be achieved without going into long drawn courts procedure.

⊙ National Commission of Women has done immense work for making workplaces safe for women, individual cases like Nirbhaya rape case or other cases of National importance.

⊙ It has also played role in judgements such as Vineeta Sharma Case (2005), Babita Puniya Case, Shayara Bano (triple talaq case etc.

Limitations
- (1) lack of manpower & resources
- (2) Non binding nature of recommendations
- (3) No power of enforcement.

By making NCW a constitutional body and providing statutory powers for enforcement, we could further achieve SDG 5 (gender equality) swiftly

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Q15. भारत में बाल यौन शोषण के मुद्दे का समाधान करने में POCSO अधिनियम, 2012 की प्रभावशीलता का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Critically analyse the effectiveness of the POCSO Act, 2012 in addressing the issue of child sexual abuse in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

POCSO Act, 2012 (Prevention of child against sexual offences act) is the primary legislation protecting children of our country

Provisions of POCSO, 2012

1. Fast track courts for cases of child sexual abuse
2. Higher punishment dealth with other strictness
3. wide range of crimes are considered
4. Counselling & rehabilitation measures for child
5. guilty until proven otherwise

Recent incident in Mumbai where 2-4 year old girls were sexually abused highlight the need of the acts like POCSO.

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Effectiveness of POCSO in preventing child sexual abuse

- ① Provided a separate and smooth procedure for cases related to child abuse with no confusion
- ② Fast resolution of cases on priority helps child get back into life at the earliest
- ③ Strict punishment has acted as a deterrent against child sexual abuse
- ④ Anonymity of child & counselling ensure child's mental & emotional well being.

Limitations of POSO

- ① definition of child – below 18 years → has not provided any scope for consensual acts between teenagers
- ② Act misused by parents often to punish acts of love or elopement of girls at young age
- ③ definition of sexual acts, rape not up to date – such as penetrative sex is

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only considered as rape.

Recently, supreme court judge also called the government for looking into the definitions of the act to account for changing realities of the growing population → attaining maturity at younger age

Way forward
- ① Sex education and widespread awareness of the law must be prioritised especially through schools
- ② Concept of consent, and teenage relationships must be introduced into the act.
- ③ definitions of various offences must be updated to provide effective justice.

Thus, by constantly updating and effectively implementing our laws like POCSO we could realise Article 39(f) → safe and healthy development of children and in a comprehensive manner.

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Q16. भारत में स्मार्ट सिटी मिशन के कार्यान्वयन का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Critically evaluate the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Smart Cities Mission was the flagbearer of developed India especially since 2015 and the change of the regime of 2014 elections

components of SCM (Smart Cities Mission)

- ICT enabled control rooms for the smart city
- Hi tech traffic management on roads of cities
- expanding green cover, open spaces, walking pavements
- decreasing water and air pollution
- effective solid waste management (SWM)
- empowered local municipalities and ready for disaster management

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Realisation of Smart Cities Mission

→ ① India has achieved ODF+ status where all cities have now public washrooms with water

→ ② More than 70 cities out of the targeted 100 have smart control rooms for overarching monitoring.

→ ③ Increased capacity for solid waste management (SWM) and connectivity of water pipeline to every household

→ ④ City master plans → making of roads & highways for better and seamless connectivity

→ ⑤ deployment of larger number of traffic police constables, cameras etc. for effective management of traffic.

→ ⑥ Increased capacity building of local government.

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Limitations → ① Most of the projects under smart city missions are running late → continuous extension of deadlines

→ ② Non-involvement of private sector. PPP project uptake is abysmal

→ ③ limited power with local governments due to central & state master plans

→ ④ Top down approach is followed rather than local customisation.

→ ⑤ Lack of funds → only 60% of smart cities received funds promised for their development. Delays leading to increased costs.

Way forward
→ ① Partnership with private sector to cater to local needs
→ ② Empowered body to track timely implementation
→ ③ timely disbursal of funds

By the recent budget provisions for SCM 2.0, PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 and transit oriented cities we could achieve the aim of SDG 11 (sustainable cities & communities)

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Q17. भारत में चरम निर्धनता में काफी कमी आई है, लेकिन स्वस्थ भोजन तक पहुच अभी भी एक विलासिता का विषय बनी हुई है। स्वस्थ भोजन तक अपर्याप्त पहुच के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए और उनका समाधान करने के उपाय सुझाइए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

While extreme poverty has declined considerably in India, access to healthy food still remains a luxury. Discuss the reasons for poor access to healthy food and suggest measures to overcome the same. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Recent NITI aayog SDG Index (2023-24) have reported that poverty in India has declined to just 11.4 % from 27 % in 2014. NFHS-5 survey also revealed that 15 % of people live BPL (in 2019-21). However, despite of this healthy food remain a luxury.

Inaccessibility of healthy food – evidences

① SOFI report 2024
55 % of Indians could not afford a meal (healthy & nutritious)

② Global hunger Index (2023)
111/126 → declining rank of India

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→ (3) NFHS 5 survey – 1/3 rd of children in India are stunted

1/5th are wasted

Reasons for poor access to healthy food

- Poor feeding practices and knowledge of parents
  → not making a meal holistic in all nutrients.

- Poor implementation of food distribution schemes of government (eg) Recent report of children served Rice with salt in MDMS in schools

- Proliferation of HFSS food – HCES survey 2024
  rural household → expenditure on cereals, milk decreased & HFSS expenditure increased

- Food inflation – unaffordable healthy food.
  due to heat waves, flood → lack to healthy food access.

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① Increasing food wastage

- 19% of vegetables
- 22% of fruits
- 7% of cooked food

annually wasted

② Other factors - like illiteracy of women contributing to unhealthy food.

Measures to overcome the unhealthy food proliferation

① Parent counselling programs through Anganwadis

② Sin tax on HFSS food

③ Robust implementation of PDS (eg) 24X7 grain ATM of Odisha initiative

④ Controlling food inflation through multifaceted approach → reducing exports, reaching to vulnerable areas etc.

Case in point → Poth Laika Abhiyaan of Chhattisgarh

Parent Counselling programme through schools & anganwadis

→ great results in ousting of malnutrition.

By incorporating above suggestions, we could realize Article 39(f) — healthy development of children and SDG 3 — good health & well being.

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Q18. भारत में स्वास्थ्य संबंधी परिणामों को बेहतर बनाने में सार्वजनिक रूप से वित्तपोषित स्वास्थ्य बीमा की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Examine the role of publicly funded health insurance in improving health outcomes in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Health of individuals of a nation is an important determinant of development of any nations. Considering this, India has been chasing the path of universal health coverage and realise Article 47 (raising health and nutrition of the population)

Role of publicly funded health insurance in improving health outcomes

→ ① Inclusivity as all sections of the society could access good health through public funds – ⟨Eg⟩ PM Jan Arogya Yojana – 47% beneficiaries are women.

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→ ② Reduced out of pocket expenditure for citizens → increase the tendency to regular health checkups & treatment for poor and marginalized

→ ③ Reduce future burden over government resources → eg) Universal immunization coverage help in extradicating Polio, Malaria etc. from India

→ ④ Reduced citizen's expenditure on health → more expenditure on healthy food and other merit goods.

→ ⑤ Realisation of hardworker tax payer's money

Measures that should be taken for universal health coverage

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- decreased premium for health insurance for citizens
- Coverage of newer diseases like Cancer, NCD's etc. under ambit of public health.
- More expenditure on palliative care → inclusion of women into care work economy
- Efficient use of Anganwadis and ASHA workers for awareness generation and wider reach out

government efforts →
- PM Jan Arogya Yojana
- Telemedicine
- Digital health programme
- Disease focused programmes like TB elimination programme (Nikshay Yojana).
- wider awareness about government schemes

With sustained government efforts, we could swiftly achieve SDG 3 (good health and well being) for all.

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Q19. भारत की 'पड़ोस प्रथम (Neighbourhood First)' नीति पड़ोसी देशों के साथ संबंधों को बेहतर करने में किस हद तक सफल रही है? (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

To what extent has India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy been successful in enhancing its relations with the neighbouring countries? (Answer in 250 words) 15

India's Neighbourhood first policy has been one of the most important component of India's international engagement especially since Gujral doctrine

Components of Neighbourhood first policy

1. Help of neighbours in good faith (eg. 2015 Nepal earthquake & India's assistance)
2. Priority to neighbours in economic engagement
   (Eg) agreements through SAARC of reducing duties & tariffs
3. No expectations of immediate quid pro quo
4. Solving bilateral disputes by bilateral engagements
5. Not allowing use of our territory for our neighbour's disadvantage

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Success of India's Neighbourhood first policy

① India has been the trusted partner for our neighbours in time of crisis
(eg) Sri Lanka economic crisis and India's assistance

② Increasing people to people exchange
(Eg) Many Nepalese nationals working in India

③ Coordination during disasters and pandemic.
(Eg) Bangladesh, Sri Lanka working together for rescue & rehabilitation during cyclones.

④ Support of our neighbours to India in international forums in multifarious issues.

But recently, India is facing a setback from its neighbourhood

① Chinese incursion – through its deep pockets trying to buy out our neighbours using its BRI

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② Rising extremism into neighbouring countries like right wing extremism

③ Instability in economy especially after covid.

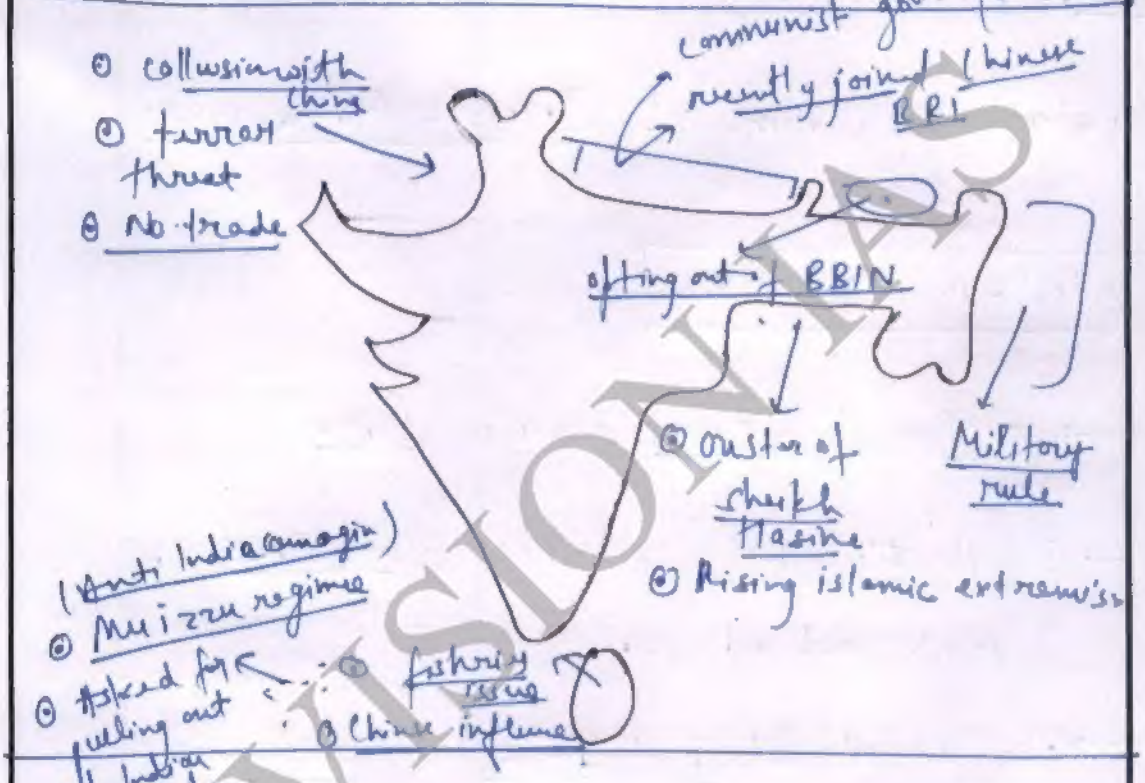

Fig) India Issues with neighbours

Way forward
① Reinvigorate enthusiasm towards neighbourhood cooperation
② Focus on making economic relations as bedrock.

- We can realize our principle of Vasudhaiva kutumbakam only when our neighbourhood is cooperative and peaceful.

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Q20. पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते संघर्षों के भारत पर पड़ने वाले उल्लेखनीय प्रभावों को रेखांकित करते हुए इसके क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक स्थिरता पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Examine the effects of escalating conflicts in West Asia on regional and global stability, highlighting the significant repercussions for India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

West Asia, though always marred in conflicts, is currently seeing one of its biggest confrontations in form of Israel-Gaza war

Conflicts in West Asia

- ① Israel - Hamas war in Gaza
- ② Houthi rebels attack in Suez Canal route and red sea
- ③ Fear of entry of Iran into war
- ④ Iran attacks in Syria, Iraq and Pakistan alleging militant hideouts.
- ⑤ Hezbollah attacks on Israel supported by Iran and partners.

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Effect on regional stability

① Economic activities in the area → depleting → hardship for citizens → fertile ground for rising crimes & terror

② Any chance of peace between Saudi Arabia and Israel pushed forward for years

③ Spillover effect on regions around like Egypt, Jordan

④ Rising refugee crisis in neighbouring countries

Effect on global stability

① Threat to supply chains – significant trade through suez canal for Europe

② Rise in inflation → west Asia being important source of energy

③ Renders Abrahim Accords useless for at least a decade

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(4) Rising greater power politics b/w Iran-China-Russia bloc and USA-Europe bloc

Repercussion for India

(1) Economy – threat to trade with West Asia (Israel, UAE etc)

(2) Connectivity → Uncertainity over IMEC corridor

(3) India forced to take sides at multilateral forum like UN → difficult to maintain diplomacy

(4) threat to working of regional cooperation like I_2U_2, IORA etc.

Today need of the hour is peaceful resolution through mediation (Article 51). India should take lead to show the way to the world.

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